



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Am

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/038,312	11/09/2001	Jun-Il Hong	678-625 (P9633)	7218
28249	7590	06/15/2005	EXAMINER	
DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP 333 EARLE OVINGTON BLVD. UNIONDALE, NY 11553			ZHOU, TING	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2173	

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/038,312

Applicant(s)

HONG, JUN-IL

Examiner

Ting Zhou

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on 28 March 2005 under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 10/038,312 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

2. The amendments filed on 28 February 2005, submitted with the filing of the RCE have been received and entered. Claims 1-5 as amended are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-5 recite the limitation "the related functions" in lines 4, 4, 4, 5 and 5 of claims 1-5, respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. Claims 1-5 only provides antecedent basis for a function related to a state indicator, but not one of the related functions for the state indicator.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Horwitz et al. U.S. Patent 5,774,866.

Referring to claim 1, as best understood by the examiner, Horwitz et al. teach a method comprising the steps of registering one of the related functions for the state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the state indicator occurs (for example, when conflicting search results are found, an alarm signal is sent; the alarm signal causes the terminal to display a flashing icon, that when selected, supplies a list of potential matters which produced the conflict) (column 21, lines 1-15), altering the state representation of the state indicator (displaying an alarm status flashing icon when conflicting search results are found) (column 21, lines 8-11) and invoking the registered function upon receipt of a user input for designating the state indicator (if the user selects the alarm status flashing icon, selected information associated with the icon, such as the list of potential matters which produced the conflicts, are displayed for the evaluator) (column 21, lines 1-15 and 26-30).

Referring to claim 2, as best understood by the examiner, Horwitz et al. teach a method comprising the steps of registering one the related functions for the state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the state indicator occurs (for example, when conflicting search results are found, an alarm signal is sent; the alarm signal causes the terminal to display a flashing icon, that when selected, supplies a list of potential matters which produced the conflict) (column 21, lines 1-15), altering the state

Art Unit: 2173

representation of the state indicator (displaying an alarm status flashing icon when conflicting search results are found) (column 21, lines 8-11), determining whether the coordinates of a screen input indicate the representation area of the state indicator upon receipt of the touch screen input (determining if the user has selected the icon through the input means, which includes a touch screen input) (column 9, lines 2-6 and column 21, lines 11-15), and invoking the registered function when the coordinates of the screen input indicate the representation area of the state indicator (if the user did select the alarm status flashing icon, selected information associated with the icon, such as a list of potential matters which produced the conflict, are displayed for the evaluator) (column 21, lines 1-15 and 26-30).

Referring to claim 3, as best understood by the examiner, Horwitz et al. teach a method comprising the steps of registering one of the related functions for the state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the state indicator occurs (for example, when conflicting search results are found, an alarm signal is sent; the alarm signal causes the terminal to display a flashing icon, that when selected, supplies a list of potential matters which produced the conflict) (column 21, lines 1-15), altering the state representation of the state indicator (displaying an alarm status flashing icon when conflicting search results are found) (column 21, lines 8-11), determining whether a cursor or an input focus is positioned over a representation area of the state indicator upon receipt of a user button input (determining if the user has selected the icon through the input means) (column 9, lines 2-6 and column 21, lines 11-15), and invoking the registered function when the cursor or input focus is positioned over the representation area of the state indicator (if the user did select the alarm status flashing icon, selected information associated with the icon,

Art Unit: 2173

such as a list of potential matters which produced the conflict, are displayed for the evaluator) (column 21, lines 1-15 and 26-30).

Referring to claim 5, as best understood by the examiner, Horwitz et al. teach a method comprising the steps of registering an alarm function of the related functions for the alarm state indicator when the alarm is set (for example, when the alarm status flashing icon is displayed on the screen, i.e. when the alarm is set, one function of the alarm, i.e. displaying a list of potential matters which produced the alarm, is associated with the alarm icon so that when the user selects the alarm icon, the list is displayed to the evaluator) (column 21, lines 1-15), displaying the alteration of the representation of the alarm state indicator (altering the representation of the alarm status icon by changing from an alarm icon that was not previously displayed to displaying an alarm status flashing icon when conflicting search results are found) (column 21, lines 8-11), determining whether coordinates of a touch screen input indicate a representation area of the state indicator upon receipt of the touch screen input (determining if the user has selected the icon through the input means, which includes a touch screen input) (column 9, lines 2-6 and column 21, lines 11-15), and invoking the alarm function when the coordinates of the touch screen input indicate the representation area of the state indicator (if the user did select the alarm status flashing icon, selected information associated with the icon, such as a list of potential matters which produced the conflict, are displayed for the evaluator) (column 21, lines 1-15 and 26-30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oran et al. U.S. Patent 5,617,526 and Horwitz et al. U.S. Patent 5,774,866.

Referring to claim 4, as best understood by the examiner, Oran et al. teach a method comprising the steps of registering a message reading function of the related functions for the message state indicator when the message arrives (registering one function of reading a new email via an email application with an email icon; for example, when a new mail arrives, an email icon is displayed with a registered function that when the user selects the icon, he can look at the newly arrived mail) (Oran et al.: column 4, lines 20-30 and 42-50), displaying the alteration of the representation of the message state indicator (altering the representation of the email notification icon by changing from an email icon that was not previously displayed to displaying the mail icon indicating the change in the email application, i.e., a new mail has arrived) (Oran et al.: column 5, lines 37-46), determining whether coordinates of a screen input indicate a representation area of the state indicator upon receipt of the screen input (determining if the user has positioned the mouse cursor on the icon and double clicked the icon) (Oran et al.: column 4, lines 20-24) and invoking the message reading function when the coordinates of the touch screen input indicate the representation area of the state indicator (if the user did position the mouse cursor over the icon and double clicked the icon, the function associated with the icon,

Art Unit: 2173

such as opening the email application to read the newly arrived mail, is performed) (Oran et al.: column 4, lines 20-30 and 42-50). However, Oran et al. fail to teach the input being a touch screen input. Horwitz et al. teach a method for the display and selection of status indicators (such as the display and selection of the alarm status flashing icon when conflicting search results are found) (Horwitz et al.: column 21, lines 1-15) similar to that of Oran et al. In addition, Horwitz et al. further teach using a touch screen input to make onscreen selections (Horwitz et al.: column 9, lines 2-6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Oran et al. and Horwitz et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the method for associating a function with an indicator of Oran et al. to include the use of touch screen inputs taught by Horwitz et al. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to avoid the inconvenience of attaching a mouse or keyboard to devices that are small in size, such as handheld devices like PDAs and cell phones.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed on 28 February 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive:

7. The applicant argues that the registering element claimed in the present application is simultaneous and produces dynamic results whereas Horwitz describes static assignments and therefore fails to teach "registering one of the related functions for the state indicator *corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the state indicator occurs*", as recited in claims 1-3 and "registering an *alarm*

function... for the alarm state indicator when the alarm is set", as recited in claim 5. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Horwitz teaches that when a status change occurs, such as the sending of an alarm signal when conflict search results are found, a corresponding state indicator, i.e. a flashing icon, is displayed; the state indicator, or icon, that is displayed has a registered function of displaying a list of potential matters which produced the conflict upon user selection; therefore, the registered function of displaying a list of potential matters for an alarm icon occurs when a status change for the alarm icon, such as receiving an alarm signal and causing the representation of the alarm icon to be change from an icon that was not displayed, or hidden, to displaying a flashing alarm icon, occurs. See column 21, lines 1-15.

8. Furthermore, the applicant argues that Oran does not teach or suggest *dynamically* assigning a function to an icon *at the time of* occurrence of an event and therefore does not teach "registering a message reading function of the related functions for the message state indicator when the message arrives", as recited in claim 4. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Oran teaches that at the time of occurrence of a new email message, i.e. a new email is received, an envelope icon is displayed, the envelope icon having at least one registered function of allowing users to view the mail message when the icon is selected, related to the envelope icon indicator. See column 4, lines 20-50 and column 5, lines 34-46. In a similar example with the printer icon associated with the printer application recited in column 3, lines 48-63 and column 4, lines 20-38, Oran teaches that at the time of occurrence of an event such as users printing a document, a printer icon is displayed on the taskbar area, the printer icon having at least one registered function of opening the print manager window upon user selection of the printer icon, related to

Art Unit: 2173

the printer icon indicator. Therefore, Oran teaches that functions of viewing a mail message and opening a print manager window are assigned to the envelope icon and printer icon at the time of occurrence, i.e. when, an event such as the arrival of a new email and users printing a document occurs.

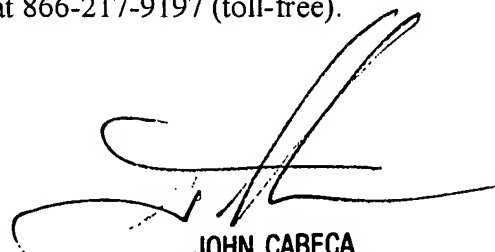
9. In addition, the examiner respectfully refers to the "Response to Arguments" section of the previous final office action mailed on 24 November 2004, for similar arguments.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner¹ can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-4058.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER